

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line with the following amended paragraph

This patent application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/612,636, filed July 7, 2000, entitled, "A Method And Apparatus For An Active Standby Control System On A Network;" now U.S. Patent No. 7,032,029, issued April 18, 2006; which application claims priority to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/224,196, filed December 30, 1998, entitled, "Input/Output (I/O) Scanner For A Control System With Peer Determination," now U.S. Patent No. 6,327,511, issued December 4, 2001; the contents of these applications are expressly incorporated herein by reference.